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DISSEMINATING COLLIER FAMILY GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INFORMATION

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Family Heirlooms?

DECEMBER 10, 2017 9:06 PM \ 2 COMMENTS \ BY COLLIERHERITAGE \ EDIT



In 1943, D C came upon two silver "beakers" in the possession of a New York dealer in American antiquities. One of the beakers was engraved "Vines Collier" and the other "Sara". D C, who was living in New York City at the time, visited the dealer (The House of Peters) at least twice.

Here is a letter from The House of Peters to J C Collier offering to sell the beakers for \$200.00, which would be equivalent to almost \$2900.00 today. The letter was accompanied by a photograph of the beakers. Based on a note inside one of the beakers, the items had belonged to a late doctor (Dr. Norton) who had served in the Union army and who obtained them near Macon in 1864. The

supposition is they were stolen during the uncontrolled looting by Sherman's army in the March to the Sea.

THE HOUSE OF PETERS, INC.
KNOX BUILDING
452 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY
PENNSYLVANIA 6-3384
OFFICE OF FRED J. PETERS
PUBLISHERS OF AMERICANA
ART-ANTIQUES-HISTORY

May 7th 1946.

Mr. Jena C. Collier,
Barnesville, Georgia.

Dear Sir:

I have had the pleasure of two visits from your son, Mr. D. C. Collier of 521 Fifth Avenue, New York.

Mr. Collier and I have gone over the matter of the two historical silver beakers of Vines Collier and his wife Sara of the 16th Century. I had these beakers here on Mr. Collier's last visit yesterday afternoon.

As per requested, I have had these two beakers photographed and enclose you herewith a print of this negative. On the reverse of the picture, I have noted the size, weight and also a transcript of the note made by the late Dr. Norton, and which is fixed on the inside of the "Sara" beaker. This reads as follows -

#15

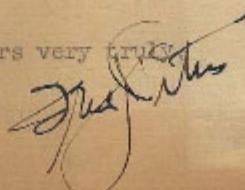
I got these near Macon in the
fall of '64

C.A.Q.M.

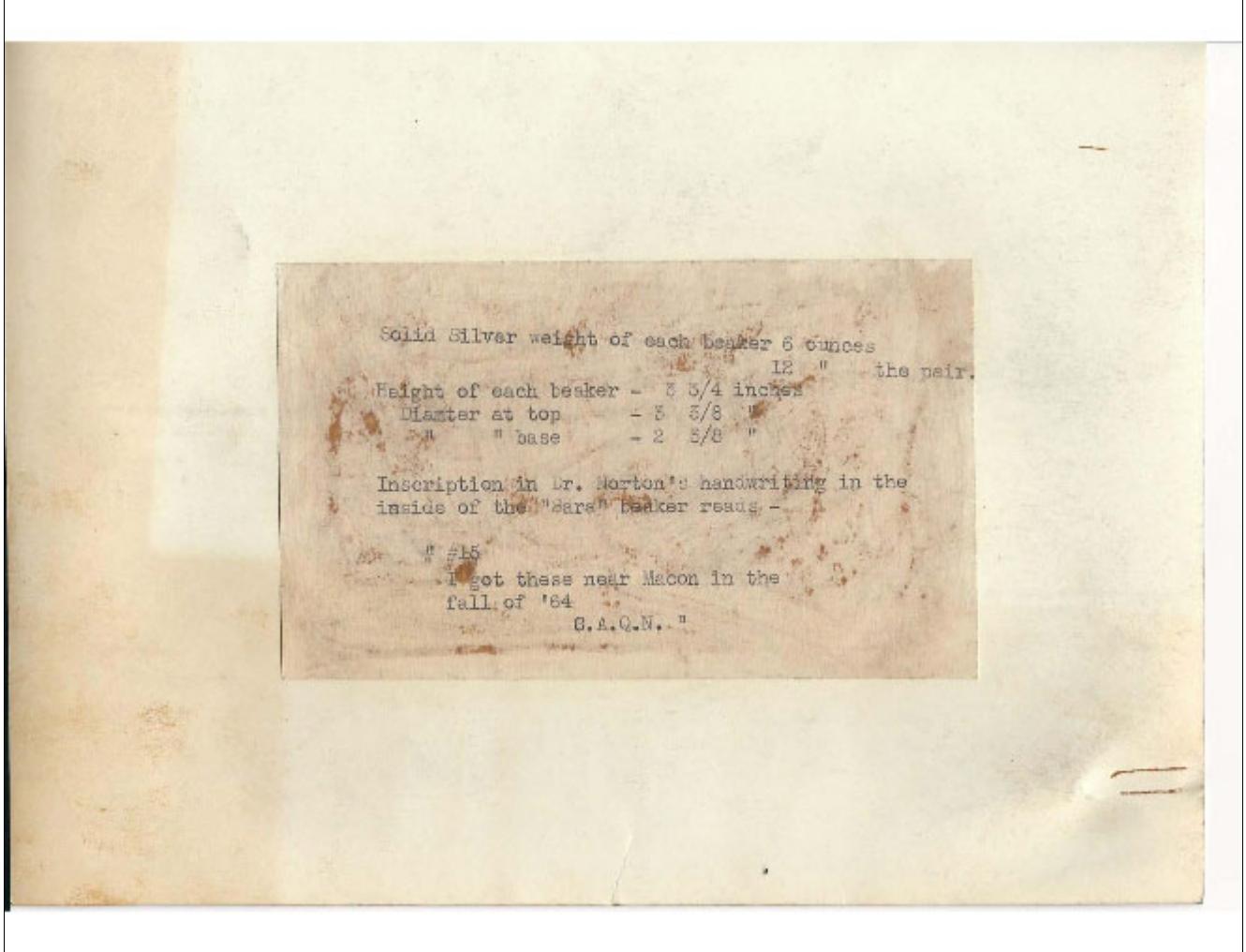
My impression is that Dr. Norton was with the Union Army with General Sherman on his march to the Sea from Atlanta.

Mr. Collier is writing you all the particulars and details in this matter. The price for the pair is \$200.00 which I can assure you is a very reasonable value.

Yours very truly







J C and D C didn't purchase the beakers. The country was in the middle of World War II; money was not easily had and the future was uncertain. One of D C's two sons was in the US Army in North Africa, the other in the Annapolis Naval Academy. And D C's daughter was serving with the US Weather Bureau in Puerto Rico. Definitely not the perfect time to invest in unnecessary items.

Or perhaps they felt they weren't authentic. But if they were, could they have originally belonged to Vines and Sarah Collier from the Lexington area? Or perhaps another Vines Collier and Sara? We all know Vines was a name in common usage in the Collier family.

And, if they were original to the Lexington couple, what family were they stolen from near Macon? Perhaps someone out there has stories of their family losing silver to Yankee troops near Macon in 1864.

POSTED IN: [GENEALOGY](#), [UNCATEGORIZED](#)

2 Thoughts on "Family Heirlooms?"



Don Collier

on December 12, 2017 at 11:04 am said:

[Edit](#)

Is the location of the beakers known today?

[Reply↓](#)



collierheritage

on December 12, 2017 at 1:10 pm said:

[Edit](#)

I don't know the whereabouts of the beakers. Virginia Collier Dennis had mentioned to me in passing that someone offered to sell her father (D C Collier) some silver cups owned by Vines Collier. The first hard evidence I found was in the letter and picture that are presented here.

Glen

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